

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 SCCT-01 DRC-01 /056 W

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R 080229Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6323

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 6672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG BEGINS MUN SE KWANG TRIAL

REF: SEOUL 5592

1. MUN SE-KWANG, CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT PARK AND MURDER OF MRS. PARK ON AUGUST 15, FACED PANEL OF THREE JUDGES AT FIRST SESSION OF HIS TRIAL AT SEOUL DISTRICT COURT OCTOBER 7.

2. LOCAL PRESS COMMENTED THAT MUN WAS COMPOSED AND EMOTIONLESS. PRESS STATES MUN ADMITTED PROSECUTION CHARGES THAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS MADE UNDER ORDERS OF CHOSEN SOREN CADREMAN, KIM HO-RYONG. KIM WAS IDENTIFIED AS CHIEF POLITICAL OFFICER IN OSAKA'S IKUNO WARD. MUN CLAIMED HE HIMSELF WAS COMMUNIST, INDICATING ASSASSINATION PLOT WAS PLANNED TO IGNITE POPULAR UPRISING AGAINST PARK GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING PRESS MUN ALSO ALLEGED NORTH KOREAN AGENT HAD TOLD HIM PLOT WAS "CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED PERSONALLY BY KIM IL-SUNG."

3. PRESS NOTED MUN DENIED HE HAD AIMED AT FIRST LADY. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING "AT FIRST I SHOT AT PRESIDENT, BUT I CANNOT REMEMBER HOW I SHOT REMAINING BULLETS." WHEN ASKED

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WHY HE HAD TRIED TO BUY PISTOL IN HONG KONG INSTEAD OF

PROCURING WEAPON FROM ALLEGED CO-CONSPIRATORS, MUN REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD "A REVOLUTIONARY SHOULD GET HIS OWN ARMS."

4. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY HEAVY. A REPORTED 225 PERSONS RECEIVED TICKETS TO ATTEND OPENING FIVE AND ONE HALF HOUR SESSION INCLUDING ESTIMATED 60 LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN AND JAPANESE EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY. NEXT SESSION OF TRIAL IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740284-0910
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741063/aaaacbyb.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 5592
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG BEGINS MUN SE KWANG TRIAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, (MUN SAE-KWANG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005